

Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW.
Calgary, Alberta T2W 1G4
Phone: 403-255-4792
email: churchofthecross@shaw.ca
web: www.churchofthecross.ca



Covid 19 & REP Policy

In accordance with CMOH Order 44-2021 Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross (ELCoC) will be implementing the following protocols and restriction.

Masking

- a person must wear a face mask at all times while inside of the church building (3A3.1)
- the only acceptable exceptions are located in Part 3, Section B of CMOH Order 44-2021

Exceptions to indoor masking as it pertains to ELCoC

- a person is not required to wear a face mask at all times while if:
 - marrying another person during a wedding ceremony, and the individuals in their wedding party; (3 B 3.4 f)
 - seated at a table while consuming food or drink or, if standing at a standing table while consuming food or drink, as long as the person remains at the standing table at all times while consuming the food or drink; (3 B 3.4 h)

Physical Distancing

Two metres physical distance is required at all times while inside of the church building (4 4.1)

- including attending a place of worship (4 4.1 f)

Statement to Public

Our policy and plan will be posted:

- on the doors of the church: will be a statement of our participation in the REP program for all activity except Worship
- posted within the church: a large sign will be posted at each entrance of our statement of our participation in the REP program, the requirements of entering the building with the exception of Worship
- on the website: our full policy will be available to read

Worship Service

Places of Worship during a worship service are considered Out-of-Scope for the Restriction Exemption Policy.

This means that we will not be checking proof of vaccination or negative Covid test to attend worship.

This does mean the following restrictions apply:

- the number of people in attendance does not exceed 75 people (8 8.1)
- people must remain in a cohort and physically distance of 2 metres to other people/cohorts. (8 8.2)
- people must be symptom free
- people must wear a mask the entire time they are indoors except during communion

Activity Other than Worship Service

According to the Restriction Exemption Program activities outside of worship are In-Scope.
Church of the Cross is declaring participation in the REP

This applies but is not limited to:

- rental groups
- meetings
- social groups
- adult recreation
- wedding and funerals
- private social events

Compliance with REP

To enter the building, all persons:

- must be symptom free;
- must wear a mask for the entire time they are in the building;
- sign in/attendance taken;
- all people aged 12 and over must show proof of vaccination by showing one of the following:
 - proof of vaccination
 - partial vaccination (one dose) accepted September 20 to October 25 if received 2 weeks before time of service
 - full vaccination (two doses) required after October 25
 - proof of a privately-paid negative PCR or rapid test within 72 hours of service (tests from AHS or Alberta Precision Laboratories not allowed) documentation of a medical exemption
- CMOH has declared an exemption to REP for those under 18 years of age who are participating in a performance activity [concert or rehearsal]

PROOF OF VACCINATION: The following documentation is acceptable:

- Hard copy documentation of their vaccination distributed at the time of vaccination (which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered)
- Hard copy print-out of immunization record provided by a pharmacist (which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered)
- A photo of such documentation with the attendee's name clearly visible
- Immunization records on apps such as <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/myhealthrecords>
- Province of Alberta's printable vaccination card (effective Sept. 19, 2021)
- Any other official provincial, territorial, or federal apps
- Self-reported vaccination records that are not verified by a health care provider cannot be accepted.

- PROOF OF NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST: The following documentation is acceptable:

- Photographs, PDFs, or hard copies of negative test documentation with the attendee's name and date of test (no more than 72 hours in advance of the performance date) clearly visible
- The COVID-19 test must be privately-paid and not from Alberta Health Services or Alberta Precision Laboratories; self-administered tests will not be accepted
- The COVID-19 test must be either a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), which includes PCR tests, or an antigen test, including rapid antigen tests

Implementation

Each group meeting within the church will be required to:

- Designate a group leader to ensure
 - protocols are being observed
 - take attendance/collect sign in information
 - check vaccination record/negative test.
 - Submit report in Elvanto declaring that the above were completed
- Each member of the group must comply with each of the requirements in the new protocols or exit the building

“LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”

- Each group must schedule their gathering with the church office to ensure physical distancing can be achieved

Personal Information

ELCoC has chosen not to keep personal information regarding REP. This means that each time a person enters the building for non-worship activity, they will be required to show proof of vaccination/negative covid test.

Non-adherence

As a facility that has declared participation in the REP all of our rental and internal activities must also comply with REP.

- Each group has been made aware of the building declaring REP
- Each group has been forwarded the most accurate information possible

Should an individual not comply with the protocols and restrictions put in place by the Chief Medical Officer and ELCoC

- That individual will be asked to leave promptly and/or turned away at the door
- The only acceptable exemptions to the protocols and restrictions are outlined in the CMOH Order 44-2021

Should a group not comply with the protocols and restrictions put in place by the Chief Medical Officer and ELCoC

- That group will not be allowed to meet again until the CMOH Order 44-2021 is lifted.

Non-adherence to the above outlined policy is a serious offense as ELCoC is held responsible for all of the actions within our walls. Alberta Health Services and police units in Alberta are able to enforce the requirements of this program. Additionally, public complaints will support increased compliance and enforcement efforts. If operators are not complying with these requirements or the current public health restrictions, then enforcement and prosecution may result in fines up to \$100,000 (for a first offence). (Covid-10 Guidance for Restriction Exemption Program, Sept 2021, page 6).

Resources:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/7cd02856-6cc3-4a3d-a47b-38205b224151/resource/b998bc19-5d6a-4f9d-874e-a17c0fc43333/download/covid-19-information-requirements-restrictions-exemption-program-2021-09-24.pdf>

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/5c93cf08-eda1-4a35-9190-33ab184f6b60/resource/1bb2c444-53a7-43b6-b8e8-03c1d91d920b/download/health-cmoh-record-of-decision-cmoh-order-44-2021.pdf>

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